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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

FEBRUARY 24th, 1977, ISSUE No. 6

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E HOOKER
53 LOCUST AVE
ISLIP NY 11751

★ HOME-MADE POPPERS ★

CHUM LINES

FRANK WOOLNER APPLAUDS L.I.F. EDITORIAL

Bill Muller's editorial in the February 10th issue of L.I.F. interests us, since we remain firmly convinced that the sunspot cycle is a major factor in cell survival on earth. Indeed, highly accredited biologists, decades back, proved that high dosages of ultraviolet can inhibit or even "disintegrate" lower cell forms. Whether or not it adversely affects the viability of certain fish eggs, as we theorized after painstaking study of sunspot peaks and valleys versus year-classes, is worth careful study.

Aside from a few scientists who, in correspondence, dismissed the idea simply because we offered no proof-positive, others offered compliments by saying, in effect—"By George, you may have stumbled on something of tremendous importance!" Note that, as usual, *Salt Water Sportsman* printed the opposition in a follow-up article.

It was fisheries biologist Dr. Donald Baker who, at the first meeting of the Striped Bass Fund in New York, inadvertently provided the spark that led to our research. In discussing the nervous nature of striped bass fry, he mentioned that said fry would turn belly-up if you so much as took a picture of them with electronic strobe flash.

That statement triggered a mental "strobe flash" in my alleged brain. I knew, as a photographer, that strobe emits ultraviolet, then remembered a bit of basic astronomy—and found myself breathin hard, thinking: *You dumb bastard, it was there all the time and it fits like a good jig-saw puzzle!* I couldn't wait to get back to Boston for a super-secret discussion with Hal Lyman. (Lest there be any mistake, I was referring to myself as the "dumb bastard", not to Dr. Baker—whom we later contacted as a colleague.)

We went to work, studying everything available. Hal and I often collaborate in research and writing, so it was a team effort. After the data was compiled, Lyman presented our hypothesis to folk like the famed Dr. Harold E. Edgerton and other scientists of equal status. They expressed considerable interest, put us on the track of further data, felt that the theory had merit.

Our resulting article, "Light That Kills," made waves—but to our knowledge that has been no follow-up investigation by the scientific community. Aside from the few letters from those who felt us on thin ice, there were no rebuttals. That's where the matter rests today.

Granting that we failed to exhibit the righteous caution of scientists who never make flat statements until all of the evidence is in (the cover blurb on that May, 1973 issue fatuously and erroneously proclaimed "Striper Mystery Solved!") and some statements were unqualified conclusions based on ac accepted statistics of year-class success or failure over a considerable period of time—this is the way it happened. Now some dedicated scientist should tell us *why* it happened!

As Doc Muller mentions, the boom and bust striper cycle goes back far beyond current thermal and chemical pollution. Why? *Salt Water Sportsman* offered a layman-hypothesis, new in the case of striped bass management, but anchored on prior findings of biologists in other fields.

Long Island Fisherman will get some flak about this editorial, as we did in 1973 when our article was printed. However, we commend Muller for "sticking his neck out". That's fine! Keep the natives restless, and maybe somebody of stature in the scientific community will be goaded into initiating the hard research that will prove us right or wrong. We aren't interested in the building of reputations. We want the facts. **Frank Woolner,** Editor *Salt Water Sportsman.*

PLEA ON L.I. SOUND DUMPING

I make a personal plea to all fishermen both sport and commercial, fishing clubs, charter and open boats, baymen and commercial fisheries, bait and tackle dealers both retail and wholesale along with commercial fishing and lobster gear dealers to aid in the defeat of the proposal to dump dredged spoils in L.I. Sound.

In the fishing industry both commercial and sport, we the pursuants have all experienced a loss in productivity due to pollutants injected into our natural environment, the awareness of harmful chemicals contained in some species of marinelife, and the diminishing numbers of certain species due to these reasons.

We cannot afford to take a chance on losing what is left. Whatever the alternative might be, I'm sure the opposition will state that it would be too costly. Our natural environment is priceless. How can we afford to sell it short? **George Valentine, Four Winds Bait and Tackle.**

SPORT VS. COMMERCIAL FISH CATCHES

Although I agree with a lot of your past articles and comments on Marine Conservation, I believe that you are over doing it with your statement about sportfishing in regard to effects on some of our local species. (Bass, blues, weaks, etc.) Let me bring a few facts to your attention. This past fall at Montauk I witnessed one boat unloading approximately 6,000 pounds of weakfish and blues, most of which were weaks. This was one set with 3 gillnets. Let's talk about striped bass being such a sought after fish by all. Do you really think that rod and reel is as detrimental to fish as gillnets and haul seines. I don't believe hook and line can hurt our inshore fishing. Furthermore, haul seines and gillnetters this fall had pretty stiff pickings. But the fall of '74 was a different story. Gillnetters were loading up on school bass. Let me also emphasize a little on our bottom fish. How about the porgies. I can catch a lot of scup in one day, but you know as well as I do how important they are to head boats. Now draggers are able to work rough bottom, with the new type nets. How does 100 boxes sound for one days fishing? Let me say this in closing. They are not many sport or commercial fishermen fishing inshore with hook and line upsetting the fish population. **Capt. Bruce Hoeh, Montauk.**

Thanks for your comments Captain Hoeh. That sportfishermen take more bass, blues and weaks may be a bitter pill to swallow, but all available statistics from a number of sources say that it is true.

You mention a gillnet take of six (6000) thousand pounds of blues and weaks. That number is impressive, however, it is only a drop in the bucket considering the magnitude of the east coast populations of both species. Some estimates suggest that there are about 500,000,000 individuals of each species. Even if we grant an average weight per fish of only two pounds that equals a population weight of 1,000,000,000 lbs.! Are you really worried about 6000 pounds.

Consider this! I have seen many times when sportsfishermen made massive kills of weakfish in Peconic Bay. In May, it is not unusual to find more than one hundred boats stretch boats from the Shinnecock Canal and to Jessups Neck. I have known many days when it was easy to catch 20 to 40 weakfish with a conservative average weight of five (5) pounds. Don't kid yourself, most of those fish go in the box.

If we are conservative and say each boat took 20 fish, that's a daily catch for the area of 10,000 pounds! Consider that there are at least 10 to 14 good days of fishing in Peconic Bay between May 1 and June 15th. Again, we select the lowest number (10). That means that 100,000 pounds of weakfish are taken in ten days of fishing by sportsfishermen in a small portion of the Peconics. You can multiply that figure by catches made in countless other areas from Cape Hatteras to Massachusetts.

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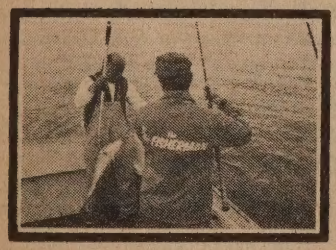

About the Cover—

The mate on Captain Paul Sundberg's charterboat "Montauk" gaffs a nice cod for Stu Miller, LIF Ad Man on a charter last spring.

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I am not suggesting that sportfishermen should give up their sport or stop keeping fish. What I am saying, is that there is a need for **restraint** *to be exercised by both commercial fishermen and sportsmen.* Dr. Wm. A. Muller

BOATING

There will be a seven week course on Small Boat Handling and Seamanship given by the U.S.G.C. Auxiliary starting Monday, Feb. 28th 1977 at 7:30 P.M. at Sears Roebuck, 195 North Broadway, Hicksville in the training room.

In addition there will be a four week course starting in March on Saturday morning for Boys and Girls from 10-16. Call GE 3-0300, ext. 318 for registration or further information.

****

The Captree Power Squadron invites all men, women and older teens, who are interested in learning how to operate a boat safely, to attend our spring Safe Boating Class to be held on Wednesday, March 2nd at the Lindenhurst Junior High School, 350 South Wellwood Avenue, Lindenhurst New York. Registration will begin at 7:30 PM in the main cafeteria.

Safety is the name of the game in the free boating instructions offered. The proper operation of all types of boats, including the family outboard is emphasized, and the courses are open to interested men, women and older teens. It is not necessary to be a boat owner.

****

Flotilla 11-4 of the Coast Guard Auxiliary is presenting an annual Boating Safety and Seamanship course on Tuesday evenings from 7:30 to 10 P.M. beginning on March 1st, 1977 and continuing to the end of May for a total of 13 lessons.

Registration and location of course will be at the Kingsborough Community College in Manhattan Beach, Brooklyn located at the end of Oriental Blvd. Day is Tuesday, March 1st from 7:30 to 10 P.M. in A Building, lobby room 101A. This will be followed by an 1 introductory lecture.

Students registering will be required to pay a $1 enrollment fee to Kingsborough and they will be issued an ID card. They will then meet with a representative of the Coast Guard Auxiliary and receive the required course materials. These will include the Coast Guard Text on Safe Boating and Seamanship, the 1210 Training chart and a homework manual. The fee for these materials will be $12.

From the Editor's Head

Citizen's Alert

There is currently a proposal from The Department of The Army, Corps of Engineers that would grant permits allowing private firms to dump dredge spoils in Long Island Sound. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has indicated that it will abide by the decisions and recommendations of the Connecticut Department of Conservation regarding where the dredge spoils will be dumped.

The materials will be taken from a number of harbors that encircle the Sound in New York and Connecticut. Approximately 1,839,000 cubic yards will be dumped during the next several years according to the proposals.

It is most unfortunate that the selected dump site which is located northwest of buoy 11B and southeast of buoy 27C is a very productive piece of bottom. Conservation officials argue that the site is an appropriate dump site for two reasons. First, this is a traditional dump site and second, a rugged uneven bottom is advantageous at a dump site so that the dredge spoils will tend to become trapped in the contours. The dredge spoils will consist of sand, mud, silt, probably some gravel, and because this material will be taken from urban harbor areas it is reasonable to assume that there will be some debris such as tires, cans, plastics and oil sludge along with its compliment of heavy metals and toxins.

The area in question is both a productive shellfish area and significant finfish area. "Species such as blackfish and porgies are extremely abundant," says George Valentine of The Four Winds Tackle Shop. "It's also a damn good lobster area, ask Joe Locurto," he said.

Joe leaned quietly against a counter top and nodded in affirmation. Mr. Locurto is a lobsterman and knows the area well. "Not only does this area produce a lot of lobsters for us, but it's a breeding ground. We take a lot of 'eggers" on that bottom. In these times we can't afford to have a good productive lobster area destroyed. Take away the lobster's habitat and you've taken away our means of makin' a living."

George Valentine picked up the slack. "Look Doc, you know how good the blackfishing has been in that area for some years now. The blackfishing and porgy fishing is good because the area is loaded with small crabs and lobsters. And other species have been found to concentrate there at times too. Gees, The Klondike out of New Rochelle, spent a lot of time there last summer jigging and chummin' big blues. It was one of the few areas that was good for blues up in the Sound." I agreed with George but it wasn't necessary. George Valentine is not only a student of his own business and the fishing game but also the ecolog" of Long Island Sound. He knows many areas intimately and he has an intuitive feel for when things are going good and when they are not. When George found out about the proposed dumping, the vibrations that he received were **not** good.

It is indeed unfortunate that the powers that be wish to dump anything in Long Island Sound in the area of Eatons Neck. Both the bottom and the water column are productive year after year. Still, we understand that the world must continue. We do not, at this time, have a complete justification for dumping at all but indications point toward its inevitability.

So we ask the question. WHY??? Why destroy a productive area? Why put men out of work, especially now when the economy is poor and unemployment high? Why destroy a productive location and diminish the incomes of local shellfishermen and possibly recreational interests? Why must we destroy many potential hours of recreational fishing in this area? Why should we diminish the quality of our leisure time?

The answers to these questions are obvious—we shouldn't!!! The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation requested that representatives of the shellfishermen discuss the problem with officials. The shellfishermen objected to the dumping but offered an alternative location to officials if dumping was inevitable. This location, approximately two (2) miles north-northeast of the LILCO loading platform on the east side of the Eaton's Neck reef is known to be what fishermen call a "dead area." That is, although both shellfishermen and finfishermen have repeatedly probed the area for signs of productivity, no one has discovered any significant productivity.

It is the opinion of The Fisherman that this dumping if it is indeed necessary, should be switched to an area of low productivity. The costs of dumping in productive waters are too great to the habitat, local commercial enterprise, and recreational pursuits of local citizens.

Three hearings will be held in the near future so that citizens can offer reasons, opinions and arguments why these permits should not be issued. These dates and locations of these meetings are listed below. Please make every effort to attend the meeting in your area. It takes your sincere and arduous efforts to prevent exploitation of your marine habitats. A large turn-out of concerned and determined citizens will prevent the destruction of yet another area where we choose to work and play. Your support is both **necessary** and **valuable**. Thank you!!!!

Three hearings will be held as follows:

Tuesday, March 1, 7:30 P.M.
West Rocks Middle School
West Rocks Road
Norwalk, Conn.

Wednesday, March 2, 7:30 P.M.
Mayflower School Auditorium
25 Mayflower Avenue
New Rochelle, New York

Thursday, March 3, 7:30 P.M.
Huntington Elementary School
Lowndes Avenue
Huntington Sta., New York

William A. Miller

Pass It On...

FISHERIES REGULATIONS CONTINUE THIS YEAR

Regulations which governed U.S. fishermen in the northwest Atlantic under the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries, ICNAF are still in effect, according to William G. Gordon, Regional Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service in Gloucester, Mass.

The so-called ICNAF regulations were promulgated by the Secretary of Commerce under the authority of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Act of 1950, which was the implementing legislation when the United States became a member of ICNAF. It has been determined that the Act as well as the regulations are still valid Federal laws.

"Although the United States is no longer a member of ICNAF, it is imperative that we continue to enforce the regulations so as to conserve and manage the resources found in the northwest Atlantic area," says Gordon.

The regulations are expected to remain in effect until Fishery Management Plans are prepared by the New England and Mid-Atlantic Regional Fishery Management Councils and implemented with regulations by the Secretary of Commerce under the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976. Owners of fishing vessels departing port after this notice is made public will be subject to the regulations concerning gear, area, closures, and incidental catch in effect during 1976.

TROUT WORKSHOPS AT CONNETQUOT RIVER

Trout fishing will be spotlighted in March during a series of three Saturday afternoon workshops at Connetquot River State Park, Montauk Highway, Oakdale-Bohemia. The programs, to be presented by Trout Unlimited in cooperation with the Long Island State Park and Recreation Commission, will be held from 12 Noon to 2 P.M. on March 12, 19 and 26.

The workshop series will include the following subject areas: casting skill, stream know-how, knowledge and utilization of equipment and stream etiquette. Fly-tying demonstrations will be provided at each of the three sessions by members of Trout Unlimited, the Long Island Fly Tyers and the Brookhaven National Laboratory Fly Tyers Club.

The first session, on March 12, will focus on trout streams on Long Island, stocking procedure and a general overview of equipment—rod, reel, line, leader and flies. Guest speaker Al Kellar of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, will outline the State's programs regarding trout fishing on Long Island and there will be a showing of the film "The Way of a Trout."

The March 19 workshop will be devoted to casting instruction, casting practice (out of doors, using simulated flies—no hooks), entomology (in particular, a study of life cycles of the May fly and caddis fly) and stream courtesy.

The series will wrap up on March 26th with an instruction period on stream tactics followed by a walking tour of the streams at Connetquot River State Park.

Reservations for the workshop sessions may be made by calling Connetquot River State Park at 516 581-1005 from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. any day except Monday. Registration for each of the three sessions will be limited to 50 participants, therefore, reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Cost for the workshop is $1 per session.

This is the book reviewed in the fishing columns of Dave Knickerbocker, Jerry Kenney, Frank Keating, Bill Wisner and Nelson Bryant.

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CLUB NEWS

MORICHES ANGLERS INC.

At the annual dinner dance of the Moriches Anglers Club, held at the Rock Hill Country Club, Manorville, on Jan. 15th, the club saluted their award winners.

The angler of the year for 1976 was Tom Cashman with a total of 5,227 points. George Guydish was runner up with 5,032 points. The club also presented rods and reels to other members for the largest catch in various species. Winners were as follows:

Bluefish to Dennis Foster for a fish of 15 pounds 10 ounces; Flounder to Mike Contesa for a flounder of 3 lbs. 14 oz.; Fluke to Arthur Rumph for a fish of 15 lbs. 14 ozs.; white marlin to Ray De Mateo for a marlin of 48 pounds 12 ounces; shark, mako to George Guydish for a mako of 503 pounds which is a NY State record on 50 class line; striped bass to Joseph Martineck for a striper of 38 lbs. 1 oz.; tuna, blue fin to Dennis Foster for a fish of 31 pounds 3 ounces; weakfish to George Guydish for a weak of 7 pounds 10 ounces and codfish to Chester Wilcox for a cod of 34 pounds 8 ounces.

PARKVILLE FISHING CLUB

The members of the Parkville Fishing Club of Brooklyn elected officers for the 1977 season at their February 13th meeting. The following members were elected:

President—John Soldiviero; Vice President—Jack Kelly; Treasurer—Frank Quinn; Secretary—Joe Mendoza; and Trustees Pat Del Purgatorio and Dominick Esposito.

The club has chartered Capt. Pete Lynch's boat the "Helen M" of Sheepshead Bay for six fishing trips this coming season, commencing with a mackerel trip on April 24th 1977.

EAST ROCKAWAY ANGLERS

Starting our 4th year, East Rockaway Anglers had the following elected to office.

President—Red Thompson; Vice President to Pat Pizzo; Secretary to Steve Stark and Treasurer to Les Richwald.

STRIP SURF CLUB

The Strip Surf Fishing Club of Normandy Beach, New Jersey recently announced its Award Winners for 1976.

Most points—Bass, George Meirose; blues, John Acker; Weakfish, John Mulligan. Biggest Fish—Bass, Chet Young; Bluefish, Chet Young; Weakfish, Ted Infield. Achievement Award to Harry Linkin and Past President Award to Vincent Kosa.

MORICHES ANGLERS ELECT NEW OFFICERS

At the December meeting of the Moriches Anglers the following members were elected to office:

President—George Guydish; Vice President—Ray DeMatteo; Treasurer—Stan Drowdzdowski; Secretary—Waldo A. Rodriguez and Sgt. At Arms—Bill Kostynick

Sinker Bouncing with Matt Ahern

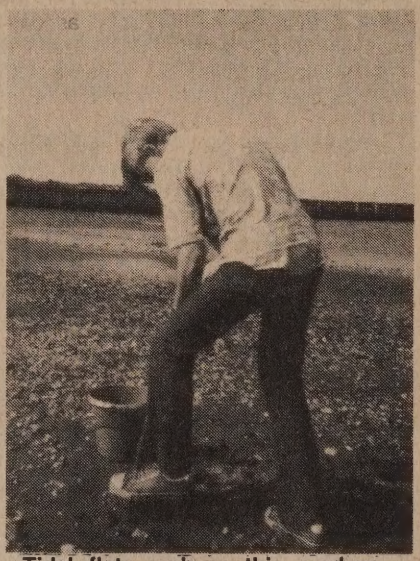
Getting Bait The Hard Way

I have yet to meet a dedicated sinker bouncer who didn't have an interest in bait. These fishermen know fresh bait can make the difference between an extraordinary catch and one that is insignificant.

They also know there are times when a particular bait does not always produce as expected. Marine worms, for instance fall into this category when flounder fishing at certain seasons of the year. We all know sand and bloodworms produce well in springtime, but when late autumn's cold water arrives, they often leave much to be desired. This also applies in late winter and early spring fishing. These are but some reasons experienced sinker bouncers take considerable interest in bait.

If you have been fishing for any length of time, I'm sure you've found instances when bait was either unobtainable or so far gone in fish-catching ability that even a self-respecting gull would refuse it. This often happens on beautiful weekends during the height of the fishing season. It's happened to me more than once—but not lately, I can assure you.

I made certain of this by visiting my local hardware store and purchasing a good grade garden fork. From there, I went to my favorite tackle shop and picked up a twelve foot minnow seine, and an umbrella net for summertime fluke and snapper fishing. The seine I planned to use when accompanied by a fishing buddy; the umbrella net, when alone. A killy trap was added when just killies were needed. Believe me, I am no longer concerned when bait suppliers decide to strike at the height of the season. A little effort on my part brings all the bait I could possibly use.



Tidal flats such as this produce worms and clams with little effort.

Most fishermen use blood and sandworms. Fortunately they aren't hard to find. All that is needed is an outgoing tide along any sheltered shore line. The lower the tide, the better your results. I do much of my worm digging near the Shinnecock Coast Guard Station and on the south side of the Ponquogue Bridge, both in Hampton Bays. But this is only because this area is in my neighborhood.

Any place similar along both shores of Long Island has worm potential. Granted some spots are better than others, but no matter where I've tried over the years, I've never failed to get enough bait for the next day's fishing. The only difference is that some areas will take more time to produce a sufficient amount for your planned trip.

It is always best to press the tines of the garden fork down as far as possible. You will find few worms near the immediate surface. Spread the glop around and remove any worms you find with care. Be cautious when lifting sandworms out of the goo; they break easily. Bloodworms are tougher in this respect, but if you have difficulty removing them, it is best to allow them their freedom; there are plenty more. Don't become discouraged if you are not immediately successful. I find that worms lie in clusters. Once you find a spot, there will be more in the vicinity.

Many times you will find gulls hovering close by. They know what you are doing, make no mistake about that. Therefore, when you find worms too small for your use, it is a good idea to put

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them back in the hole and fill it in. If you do this, you will assure your future digging.

I have always found more sandworms than bloodworms on the north shore, and vice versa. (This is not a hard, fast rule, but is usually so.) You can, however, expect to find some of each on both shores. Therefore, it is important not to mix them. If you keep them together, they will destroy each other.

Either carry two containers or make a low wooden box with a center partition. If you place several layers of damp seaweed on the bottom so that the worms can work through, they will live a good long time if kept cool.

For proper storage nothing beats an old working refrigerator. I have kept bloodworms as long as three weeks in one, and sandworms as much as ten days before they became soft and unfit for bait. Be sure to dampen the seaweed occasionally—but only with sea water! Fresh water will quickly kill them. Just sprinkle every few days; too much will make them soft and weak.

Occasionally, a long flat pinkish-white worm is found. These are commonly called tape or ribbon worms. They make excellent bait for most bottom fish—especially flounder. But don't become over enthusiastic and keep too many. Tapeworms don't keep well and die within twenty-four hours. So don't overload. One or two should be sufficient. Treat them as you would your other worms and keep separate.

As noted before, there are times when the water is extremely cold and worms won't produce as well as other bait. It is then when clam makes the difference. Of the three clams available: soft clam (steamers), hard clam (chowders,) and skimmer, I believe soft clam will outfish the others.

Soft clams are found in the same locations as blood and sandworms. They are a lot easier to find, too. Look for holes on the surface of the mud flat. Often as you approach, and the vibration of your football is felt, the clam will squirt a stream of water from the hole. Press the tines of the fork down about four inches from the hole and gently lift. Soft clam shells are easily cracked and no matter how careful you are, a certain amount are sure to get broken. It can't be helped, so don't fret about it. Place these and those that you will have accidentaly impaled on the tines to one side and be sure to use them first. Those really mangled can be used for chum.

Clams in good condition can be kept for weeks in a refrigerator if you take a little care. Set them, syphon end up, in a plastic container and cover with a clean, dry, preferably white, absorbent rag. Cotton is best. Wash out when necessary and squeeze as dry as possible and then recover. I use two rags, always drying one thoroughly before using. The clam's expelled juices are a waste product and if left in the container without this precaution, they will soon perish.

When stored properly, soft clams will stay alive for weeks. Therefore, if you are fortunate to hit upon a good mess, it will pay to dig as many as possible for future fishing. They can also be sliced into bait size and frozen. In this condition, they also produce—sometimes more so than when fresh.

Hard clams are also found in the general area, but to be useful as bait, they should be at least chowder size. The smaller sizes, called little necks and cherry stones don't give much bait. (But don't they taste good, though?) Treat them the same as soft clams when storing.

One thing to be said about the large sea clam called the skimmer: they yield a lot of bait—especially for the flounder fisherman. Most any south shore ocean beach will yield skimmers after a stiff blow from the south—but you've got to beat the gulls to them. They can also be forked out on extremely low tides in the same manner as soft clams. Holes in the wet sand signify that skimmers are available. Store them the same way as soft clams.

Who will deny that no better bait exists for flounder than fresh bank mussels? Especially in spring. No one, of course. You just can't beat them. Most are purchased at bait suppliers and fishing stations. Gone are the days of super-abundance, but occasionally clumps are still found in the muddy banks of marshes. Just twist them out with your hands, or use the fork. It may be a little time consuming to open each one you intend using for bait, but flounder never refuse the offering and you'll find cracker-jack flounder fishermen swear by them. Use for chum, too.

China-back fiddlers are hard to come by. Most are purchased at bait outlets, but there are still some available in isolated areas. Either pick them by hand at low tide when their burrows are exposed, or make a V-shaped trap with a couple of scrap boards and drive the fiddlers into it as you walk before them. Place it between the water and their burrows for best results.

All of the methods described so far entail some amount of effort on your part, but when you trap or seine killies and spearing, you can really enjoy yourself.

If you decide to use an umbrella net for spearing, just lower it to the bottom in three or four feet of water on an incoming tide. A sheltered lagoon or backwater is best. Sprinkle the area directly over the net with either canned mackerel, sardines, or Puss-In-Boots cat food. They'll come fast! I sometimes use frozen packages of pre-boiled snapper waste: heads and entrails from the previous summer's fishing. Works fine.

It will take two persons to employ the minnow seine—one on each end. A pass is made in knee-deep water for a determined distance and then worked into shore. You may get enough spearing and killies for a week's fishing from one haul.

Year's ago, the round, two-piece killy trap and a handful of cracked bank mussel could always be depended upon to produce scads of this great fluke bait. It is a little more difficult now because these small bait fish are not nearly as plentiful, but there are always some available near marshes and around shallow mud bottoms. Don't retain them in water. Dump them in a wide plastic bucket, cover with wet burlap and keep cool until ready to use. They will keep overnight without water if done this way. Place in a killy car as soon as possible and hang overboard when fishing.

Some localities have restrictions on digging and netting bait in their waters. To be on the safe side, be sure to check with the Town Clerk or equivalent. Permits, if needed are usually issued free upon application.

Now that the fishing season is about to begin, it may well pay you to think seriously about securing your own bait. It's interesting, a lot of fun, and certainly fresh bait will always produce more fish. Give it a whirl this year. You may never worry about bait again.

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Surf Side with Doc Muller

Weather Science For Surfcasters
Part VI - How To Read The Clouds

So you say, "All this stuff about weather is great, but what can I do if I spend a few days at Montauk in my buggy without a television to catch those evening news weather maps?"

Perhaps you should think about adding a few basic items to your buggy that may help you to predict the weather. A radio will let you catch the official forecast, if you don't have one already. Even though the weatherman misses occasionally, the forecast is a good place to start your analysis. An outdoor thermometer is relatively inexpensive, and it will certainly help because you'll be able to relate sudden temperature changes to the passage of fronts. A barometer is very valuable because you can determine whether the air pressure is rising or falling, as well as how fast it does so. A rapidly falling barometer means that a storm is coming regardless of what the radio forecast tells you.

Barometers can be very expensive, but you can get a fairly reliable one for about the cost of a good pair of waders.

Still, if your financial picture prohibits the addition of more equipment, you can still tell a lot about tommorrow's weather by learning to read the clouds.

Judging the approach of a thunderstorm is a snap, as I've already pointed out, but reading the other cloud types is more difficult because few cloud banks are textbook types. Most are either informative forms or are mixed with several different types.

Puffy white, low-level clouds are cumulus clouds and are associated with fair weather. It may be windy from the west, northwest or north, but if the cumulus clouds thin out at dusk, it may mean that reduced air turbulence signals calm, warm weather for the next day or so.

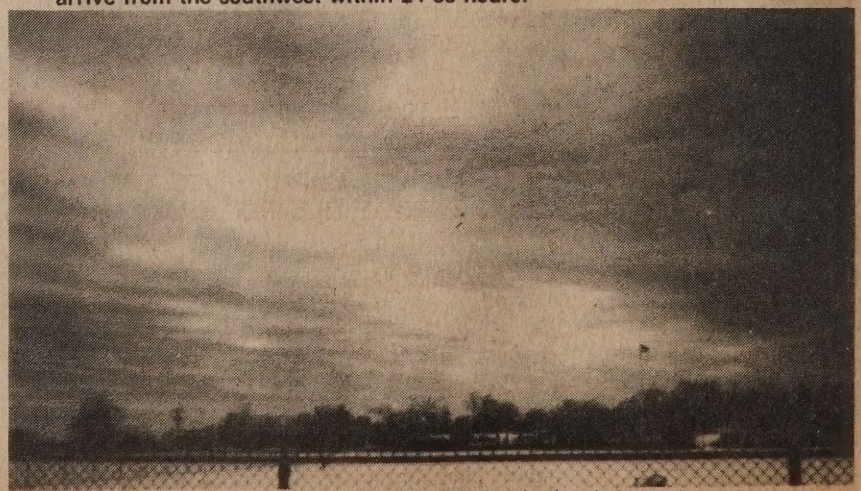
Gray sheets of clouds are stratus clouds and when they roll in with an easterly, southeast or northeast wind it usually means that precipitation is on the way. If the wind increases and the clouds get lower—watch out!

Frequently, clouds will tip us off to future weather even when the conditions at the moment are absolutely perfect. For example, high streaming cirrus clouds that look like feathers or "mares tails" are a sure sign that a storm is forming to the southwest. Cirrus clouds are high altitude ice crystal clouds and they form when moist air is pushed high up and over a high pressure system. You

(Continued on page 12.)

Cumulus clouds are associated with fair weather, but are also associated with air turbulence and gusty winds.

Cirrus cloud configurations like these sometimes indicate that a storm will arrive from the southwest within 24-36 hours.



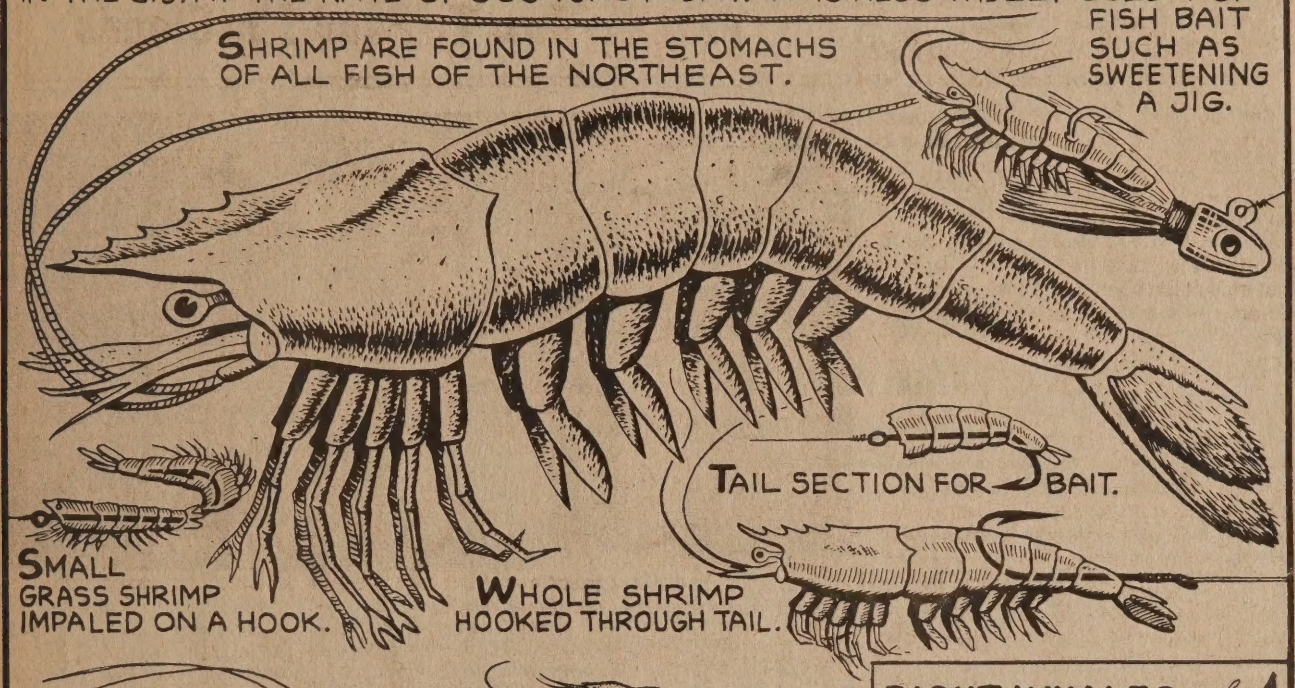
Nimbus and stratus clouds are low-level clouds that bring rain and snow.

ALL ABOUT SHRIMP

BY FRED GUARDINEER

ENLARGED VIEW OF THE EDIBLE SHRIMP, A TASTY SEAFOOD CONSUMED IN THE U.S. AT THE RATE OF 500 TONS A DAY. IT IS ALSO WIDELY USED FOR FISH BAIT SUCH AS SWEETENING A JIG.

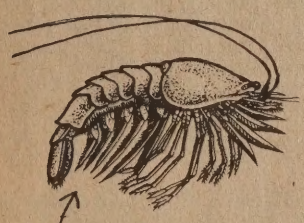
SHRIMP ARE FOUND IN THE STOMACHS OF ALL FISH OF THE NORTHEAST.



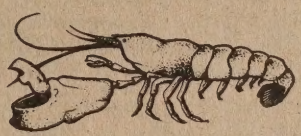
TAIL SECTION FOR BAIT.

SMALL GRASS SHRIMP IMPALED ON A HOOK.

WHOLE SHRIMP HOOKED THROUGH TAIL.

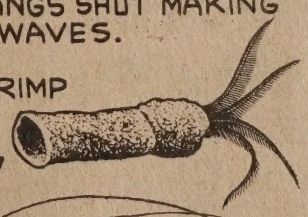


BLOODRED SHRIMP APPEAR BLACK AND INVISIBLE IN THEIR INKY BLACK DEPTHS.



PISTOL SHRIMP'S OVERSIZED CLAW BANGS SHUT MAKING SHOCK WAVES.

TUBE SHRIMP WEAVE A CO-COON IN WHICH TO HIDE WITH MATE.

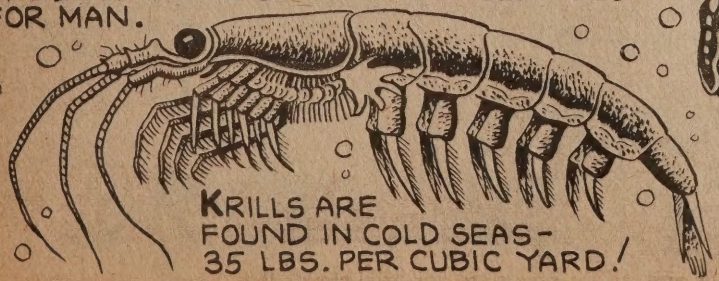


BARBER SHRIMP CLEAN PARASITES OFF FRIENDLY FISH.

LUMINESCENT SHRIMP GIVE OFF BLUISH LIGHTS.

RIGHT WHALES STRAIN TONS OF SHRIMP AND KRILL THROUGH THE BALEEN SLATS OF THEIR UPPER JAW.

KRILL SHRIMP ARE THE PRINCIPAL FOOD OF BALEEN WHALES AND A POSSIBLE FOOD FOR MAN.

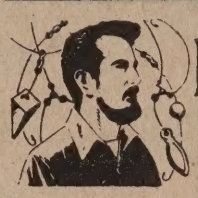


KRILLS ARE FOUND IN COLD SEAS - 35 LBS. PER CUBIC YARD!

BALEEN WHALES, LARGER THAN THEIR TOOTHED RELATIVES, INCLUDE THE BLUE, FIN, SEI, BRYDE'S MINKE, HUMP-BACK, GRAY, BOWHEAD, RIGHT AND PIGMY RIGHT.

I always get a kick out of the articles in boating magazines and textbooks where the subject matter is the "correct method of anchoring a boat, and how these textbook methods are so unrealistic for the small boat fisherman." Just a few examples: Textbook Example #1 "*Let out a length of line that is a minimum of ten times the depth of water.*" Practical Answer: If the average small boat fisherman carried enough line under this formula to anchor in a mere 100 feet of water, the 600 feet of half-inch nylon would probably be worth more than his boat.

Textbook Example #2. "*Depending on the composition of the bottom, different types of anchors are required to properly anchor...use a mushroom type for a muddy bottom, danforth for rocky areas, navy for hard sand, etc.*" Practical Answer: Even though the initial purchase price of acquiring all these anchors would be considerable this cost would be compensated for by the savings realized from the 600 feet of half-inch nylon line that you won't need now that your anchor-laden vessel is firmly resting on the bottom.



THE Bottom LINE with Scott Simons

The Art Of Unanchoring

But let's give these boating "experts" their due, and assume for a moment that we could afford all that line by some miracle and the boat DIDN'T sink under the weight of a half-dozen anchors. You've done everything "by-the-book" and your vessel is now firmly anchored. After a few hours of relaxing fishing, it's time to head back to the marina. So you open the textbook to find out the correct method of getting the anchor back into the boat, and confidently turn the page. But what's THIS&#—/!! On the next page, a *new* chapter begins! Usually concerning some really helpful topic like "How To Circumnavigate the Gulopogus Islands Using A Figure-8 Pattern In A Four-Masted 1894 Schooner Without The Aid of Scratch Paper."

They just devoted a couple of thousand words conning us into anchoring our boat so that it wouldn't be able to move for the next couple of hundred yards, then left us high and dry without even so much as a hint as how to get the damn thing out. Could it be that boating textbooks are published by giant conglomerates that also own companies that manufacture nylon line and/or anchors? Or perhaps a communist conspiracy to get all sportfishermen to register their boats so that when they take over, the boats can be confiscated and given to commercial fishermen? Whatever the reason for this oversight may be, this week we are going to discuss the easiest method of getting the anchor to let go of its death-grip of the bottom.

This method isn't one of my own inventions, though I wish it were, but I learned it simply by observing some of the "regulars" out of Montauk and how they managed to move around so often from one anchorage to another searching for fish with such relative ease. This had never been the case with me. Ever since I was a kid and my father would take me rowboat fishing out of Popp's Fishing Station in Seaford, I was always the "anchor-man". Fortunately for my father, at the time I wasn't smart enough to figure out the reason I wasn't just the "anchor-boy" was that no one else wanted to strain themselves, so the word "man" was strictly for my benefit, leading me to believe that I was being given some important, responsible task. All day long I'd sit up in the bow with my rod in one hand and the other hand on the anchor line, driving everyone crazy with "Now? Now? Can I pull it up now?"

The actual technique used to unanchor a boat is extremely simple and easily understood, but could result in a major catastrophy quite easily if done carelessly, so make sure that you pay attention! Just follow the step-by-step diagrams as you read and there shouldn't be any problems.

STEP ONE: This is the starting position as the boat would be lying down current with its bow pointed towards the anchor. Do NOT untie the anchor line from the bow chock. The first thing you do is start the engine, but DO NOT put it in gear. Then look forward to see where the anchor rope is entering the water, and KEEP YOUR EYES ON IT AT ALL TIMES!!! If someone else is in the boat with you, send them up to the bow and have them keep an arm pointed directly at the anchor line so that you always know where it is. The danger of having the boat in gear without knowing where the anchor line is should be obvious—if the boat passes over it you'll wind up with the line neatly wrapped around the propeller.

STEP TWO: Turn the steering wheel hard to starboard, which is also known as the "right." Then slip the engine into gear and SLOWLY move the boat towards the anchor at about a 45 degree angle as shown in the diagram, ALWAYS keeping the line in sight so that you don't run over it. After you have covered about half the distance between the anchor and the original starting point of the boat, a belly will form in the anchor line. Slowly maneuver the boat towards this belly so that you can grab the line. Once you have the line in hand, hold it over the gunnel away from the boat and watch that it doesn't go under your stern.

STEP THREE: Give the engine a little more speed and head the boat back towards the anchor, aiming slightly towards one side. Once you are certain that you have reached a position up-current of the anchor, give the boat more throttle.

STEP FOUR: Still holding the line over the side and watching it constantly, get the boat up to a good cruising speed and hold it there. The anchor will be pulled out backwards, quickly freeing itself. When you can see the anchor planing on the surface behind the boat, take the engine

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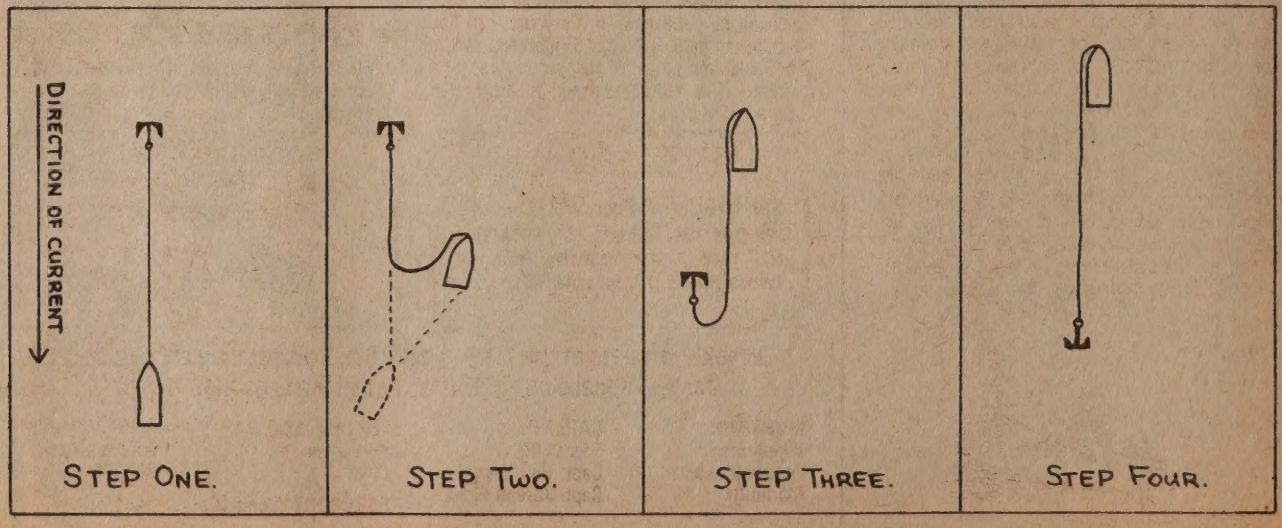

out of gear and quickly pull it in.

That's it! Instead of using up a lot of energy trying to pull a boat weighing several thousand pounds up-current to get the anchor back into the boat, by using a little smarts and your engine you have accomplished the same thing, and all you had to do was pull in the weight of the anchor itself! When I think of all the times that I grunted with the old "heave and haul" method of pulling in an anchor, it makes me want to cry.

Unlike the textbooks, which always are instructing on how to anchor a boat more or less permanently, the angler doesn't really care if his vessel may possibly "slip" anchor in two or three days time. We're usually searching for fish, and it isn't unusual to anchor a half dozen or more times during the course of a day trying to find a good spot. So the ease of "unanchoring" a boat is of more importance to us. So forget about textbook formulas like "let out a minimum length of line ten times the depth." This formula would give the anchor line a good "scope", but for a bottom fisherman this can often be a distinct disadvantage. The boat will swing from wind and tide, with the imbedded anchor as the pivoting point. Increase the distance between the boat and the pivoting point and you also increase the distance the boat will swing. If you are fishing over a small bottom formation with a pocket of fish, this would mean that during much of this swing time the boat won't be directly over fish—which was your only reason for anchoring in the first place!!!

The trick is to let out the MINIMUM amount of line necessary for the anchor to hold bottom, which will keep the swing at a minimum. Sometimes you'll have to compromise a little, however, when trying to anchor up directly over a small bottom formation. What I do is cruise around with an eye on the recorder until I find a "piece" that looks like it has good potential. I maneuver the boat slightly up-current of the bottom formation and drop the anchor, feeding out line until it digs in. Then I continue to slowly let out more line, always keeping an eye on the Sitex recorder. As soon as I see that the boat has "dropped back" on the anchor line so that it is now directly over the formation, I quickly make the line fast to a chock. The only problem with this method is that I often end up with too much line out and as a result the boat is swinging in a wide arc. To compensate for this factor, I have a large chumpot that I poured about a half inch of molten lead into the bottom of. When this weighted chumpot is let down, it serves the additional function of acting as a double anchor that prevents the boat from swinging.

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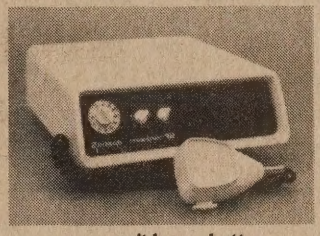

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

CONTEST

FISHING TRIP

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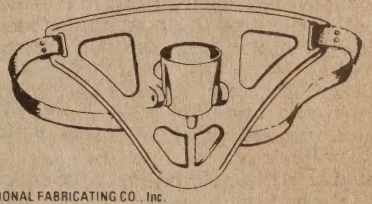

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Chief

FREEPORT Aloma II

NORTH SHORE
Port Jeff Ace
Betty W

Fish Talk with Dr. W.A. Muller

LIFE SPANS

OUT OF EVERY TWO adult breeder fish (cod, bass, grouper, pollack, etc.) we can expect that only one or two of their progeny will survive to adulthood.

THAT'S RIGHT, only one or two out of many millions! But that figure is only an average estimate. Occasionally, it may approach zero, and at other times it may be ten times greater. The fluctuations explain why fisheries scientists like to keep track of year-classes.

SINCE MOST FISH ONLY spawn once a year, their offspring can be considered as a discrete entity, or year-class. The individuals of a year-class go through life together, feed in schools of similar sized individuals, and are subjected to similar stresses.

OCCASIONAL THINGS BREAK just right. That is, favorable environmental factors may come together at once so that more eggs are produced, more eggs are fertilized, more eggs hatch, more juveniles survive, and more new adults enter the fishery. That is called a successful year-class.

NOW GIVEN THAT A certain small portion of a spawn survive to be one or two years old, how long might they live?

PRECISE INFORMATION IS generally not available because studies aimed at this result have not been common. Tagging studies have provided some data but much more work is necessary before we can be absolutely certain.

BUT WITH THAT HEDGE UNDER our belts, let's have a go at a few estimates.

STRIPED BASS MAY LIVE about thirty years. It is possible that members of the 1942 year-class may still be alive and if they are their weights will be impressive indeed. Consider that a fourteen year-old female will weigh more than forty pounds! A 125 pound specimen was taken in a net years ago. That fish might have been 40 years old. Nonetheless, figure an average life span for adults of about ten years.

FLOUNDER DON'T HAVE a chance to see too much of this life. Best estimates put the life expectancy of adults at about 5 years! On the other hand the average life span is probably less than two years. Remember, although flounders are very prolific they are also heavily harvested. How many legitimate four (4) pound flounders have you seen in your fishing experience? Few, very few!

BLUEFISH SEEM TO GROW more slowly, but good data is hard to come by. I've searched until my fingers began to parch from turning pages and can only come up with guesses.

IT WOULD SEEM THAT BLUEFISH can live more than twenty years, but an average life span is probably 5 to 10 years.

POLLACK LIVE AS LONG as 20 years, but the average life span would be closer to ten (10) years.

COD ARE FAST GROWERS and therefore, although cod can reach weights in excess of 100 pounds, these specimens would only be 20-30 years old!

PORGIES GET A RATHER quick go-round! They can live to 10 years, but these are the big-humpback senior citizens. An average life span would be about 4-5 years.

BLACKFISH MAY LIVE AS long as 10 years, but probably average less than 5 years.

I WAS THINKING HOW NICE it used to be to catch blowfish. Ah, the little sea-scwab! Rather short life span, with an outside limit of seven or eight years and an average of about 3 to 4 years.

MACKEREL SEEM TO BE so hyperactive that they burn themselves out. Even under the best of circumstances a mackerel will only be around for 4 or 5 years. Figure an average of about 2 years.

CONSIDERING THE GREAT SIZES that they attain, the billfish really take it on the chin. A one-year-old sailfish for example will already be five or six years old. At four years of age a sailfish is suffering from old age.

MOST BAITFISH HAVE short lives. Consider the following maximum estimates: Bunker—3-5 years; spearing—2 years; sandeels—2-3 years; mullet—3-4 years; and killies—2-3 years.

MOST PACIFIC OCEAN salmon live about 3 years. Since their life-cycle ends when they spawn because they die after reproduction, it means that a very steady average life-span for adults can be determined.

AMERICAN EELS LIVE about 7 years, although this could be conservative.

ACCURATE INFORMATION about life cycles is needed in order to help manage fisheries. In general, scientists believe that it is acceptable to harvest a large percentage of a given year-class when the life span is short (less than 5 years.)

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SurfSide: WEATHER SCIENCE

(Continued from page 8.)

can expect a storm within 24-36 hours, but weather conditions for the immediate night tides should be great, especially around a new moon.

When there's a significantly bright moon another form of cirrus cloud may tip off an approaching storm. Cirrus stratus clouds will form a ring around the moon, and although it doesn't always mean a storm will be coming, it is usually followed by high altitude clouds that are thick enough to obliterate or dull the moon. If you don't like a bright moon while fishing, the ring around the moon at 8 or 9 P.M. may mean an obscured moon by 2 or 3 A.M. If the tidal sequence is right, a favorite spot may be dynamite.

Have you ever seen a sky that looks like fish scales? The so called "mackerel sky" is caused by alto-cumulus clouds, and these clouds usually signal the approach of a warm front. You should take this into account because the winds will shift within 4 to 12 hours and increase from a southerly direction. If you're looking forward to fishing a spot that produces either when it's calm or when the wind is from the northerly direction, it will pay to keep close tabs on approaching cold fronts.

Well, that about does it! There is, of course, a lot more to weather science then what is covered here but this should help you to evaluate weather conditions on an up to the minute basis. Remember the official forecast is released every six hours (11 and 5 o'clock) and should help you to plan your fishing trips.

1976 At Montauk

by Capt. John De Maio

Part II

Which brings us to those 'flash in the pan' sea bass. 'Twas no flash. The sea bass fishing in 1976 was referred to by many as 'just like old times.'' In June I caught a fair share of them in the striped bass areas off the point. Jigging the bottom with the diamond jigs caught well at slack water. One day a customer jigged up one of 4½ pounds. Nice fish.

One thing not to be overlooked is the size of the spring run bass. Biggest fish on diamond jigs were two 38 pounders. The largest bass in June was a 40 pound fish I took casting on 15 pound test line. He was taken on the full moon period. One bite, one fish. That was to remain the biggest bass of the year to thump the deck of the ''Vivienne.''

August was a good month, regardless of the hurricane. As the hurricane came closer the bass fishing was getting better. The storm struck at night. That morning I had 150 pounds of bass! How eerie it seemed. A windless ocean with a mounting groundswell and a gray black ominous looking sky in the south. Although absorbed in my fishing I couldn't help constantly looking over my shoulder at the grey mess on the horizon. By the third day after the storm, the bass took hold again in strong numbers. This lasted a couple of days. Enough were around the rest of the month to make fishing for them a good bet.

Having not pursued the bluefish with any vigor, I am unable to give a complete account. Bluefish action at the Point and local areas was poor the entire season. It is not unusual to have slow bluefishing at the nearby grounds in July and August. At this time of the year the consistent action will occur to the east and offshore to the south. Well, it wasn't so consistent riding east, unless you rode all the way to Block Island. A large body of bluefish hung in here all summer and into the fall. Cartwright was uneven.

Bluefish at the local scene was slow, yes, but not without periods of solid fishing. Many days the box was filled. Or, the party boats caught what they wanted. Then again, the blues would not always take the jig and the wire liners would make the big scores. As we slipped into September the bluefish thickened inshore. Large schools of fish would come busting along with the tide. Bait jumping, birds, the whole works. Exciting action!

This is a good time to mention what was going on along the beaches all season. In a word, nothing! I had some good action casting but spent a lot of fruitless time trying. September saw the last cast fish I caught during the day. Even Septembers' cast fishing was narrowed down to mornings, (very early) and evenings. A school of weakfish worked the north side of the point in September but they too were too cute to catch. The right tide and a strong application of fishing effort might have rewarded you with a dozen at best.

Montauk's south shore beach fishing was a complete washout. Even in this generally accepted poor season, casting the beach was an absolute waste. The fish never entered the wash. I believe this can be attributed to the presence of gill nets. A half dozen gillnetters worked the beach all season and most would leave an overnight net out. Several 1,000 feet nets stretched out parallel to the beach all night and most days can shy the fish. Bass are not stupid. They can sense the presence of foreign bodies in their midst. Even more so when they're in small numbers. Striped bass were along the beach at times, but in deeper water, outside the nets. The amount of bass taken by gillnetters this season was very small. Even the haul seiners found the beach dead and have just about given up. Many haul seiners were fishing porgies to make ends meet. This was most unfortunate for these men who chose to fish for a living and only a short-sighted fool would wish them bad. Stop and think: if they cannot catch with a net, what the hell do you expect to catch with a hook and line? Haul seining is a sensible way to net fish. What isn't wanted can be returned to the sea alive. Minus some casualties but for the most part alive. Gill nets are murder. Anything that hits the net dies. Commercial fishermen are sometimes forced to throw back a good catch of fish because of the low market price which makes the fish not worth the effort to handle. One hundred pounds of bass are often worth more than over a thousand pounds of weaks. The gill net kills all, thereby eliminating controlled fishing.

Porgies performed as expected but maybe not as late as wished by some. This season I hardly fished for the little devils except with the diamond jig. Like the seabass, the porgies were eager to take the jig at the slack tides. One day three of us jigged up a hundred pounds in an hour. Catching porgies on jigs is a lot of fun, and I hope to do more this season when feasible.

September was a great month. Striped bass were available in the deep and also a few could be taken casting. Intermittent heavy concentrations of bluefish. Fantastic fluke fishing. Porgies and seabass for the sinker bouncers. Giant tuna were seen as close by as Midway. If not caught their presence was made known. Little did I know that September's fishing should have been taken with an ''enjoy it while you can'' attitude.

After the fluke left and the rest of the bottom fish became scarce, we had to concentrate on the bass and blues. The pattern of inconsistent fishing was back again. Not only did the fishing begin to fall off gradually, but the weather turned bad. By the end of the fall the weather would be called the worst fall season in memory. (Only the year before, in 1975, it was the best.) When overhearing a weather forecast the number 30 could have been mistaken for wind or temperature.

You had to listen carefully. Not only the weather failed, but the fishing too. It hurts to talk about it. Like recalling watching your brother being run over by a slow moving subway train.

Between the bad weather and the poor fishing one could be easily discouraged. Still I remained hopeful in the belief that more fish were yet to come. My records show the 8th of November as the last noteworthy catch. A party of two, and myself, diamond jigged 228 pounds. A minor miracle of sorts. Another unbelievable one was a catch of 54 bass with a combined weight of over 500 pounds. Taken casting bucktails no less. (Try to tell those three fishermen it was a poor season.)

Aside from these unusual events, the fishing was terrible and the season too short. The last bass seen on my boat was on November 14th. (To give you an example of how short a season it was, as late as December 5th and 6th of last year, I caught 500 pounds for the two days.) Three days later on a night trip we lost 3 hooked bass. Two fish broke the line. A poetic end to a dismal fall run.

I can remember at least 3 trips where we didn't catch a single fish. Several other trips only 2 or 3 fish could be

(Continued on page 17.)

Home-Made Poppers

by George Linnane

If store bought surface "poppers" are too expensive for you, try your hand at home-made plugs. The fish never know the difference and it's a great off-season activity, similar to tying trout flies. Like flies, you can make them for one fifth of the cost, once you get into production.

That's how my son felt when he lost a few $3 lures to ferocious bluefish. Here's how to do it.

A homework shop is the place to begin. The basic material is ¾" birch dowel purchased at the local hardware store. It can be turned into popping lures suitable for a spinning rod of eight or nine feet equipped with 10 to 15 pound test monofilament, nylon line.

Junior and I discussed the pros and cons of all this and he decided to try it if I helped. The first step was to cut a five and one-half inch length of dowel on a table saw at a 45 degree angle on the front end.

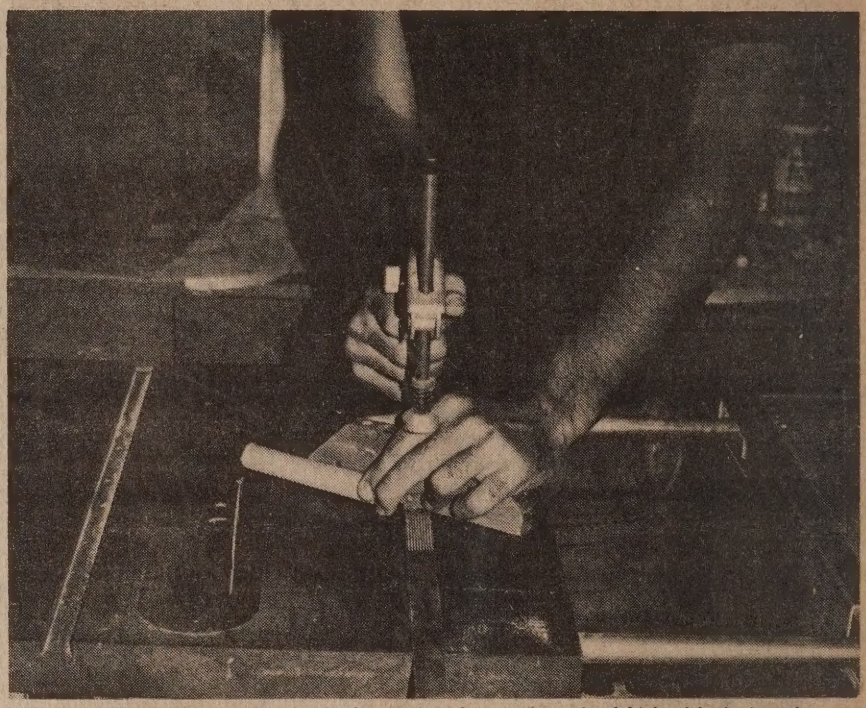
This end was drilled with a half-inch bit to a depth of one-half inch. This was followed by drilling with a round, rotary rasp, performed on a drill stand by a ¼" power drill. A "finish" type rotary file bit smoothed the hole. All this was accomplished by grinding a neat, smooth hole in the vertical-held blank mounted in the stand. (See illustration.)

The front was then sanded, resulting in a smooth, concave opening. The opposite end or tail, was rounded the same way. All this was done by a table sander or disc sander attached to the power drill.

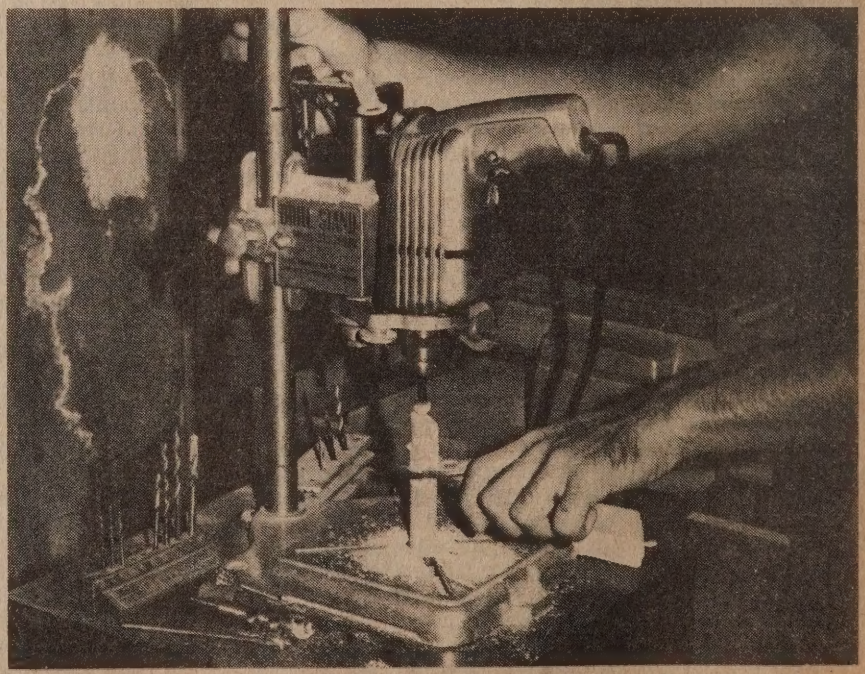
The next operation was weighting which consisted of drilling a 3/8" hole, 3/8" deep, one inch from the tail end of the underside and filling it with molten lead. The lead was melted with a torch in an old frying pan and poured in the hole. It was tamped down, leaving about 1/8" to fill with plastic wood and sand again before painting. This made it sink in the rear and improved the "popping" by causing the nose to ride the surface. It brought the weight to just over an ounce.

As for painting, first two coats of flat, oil base primer were applied with brush. After drying thoroughly, two coats of acrylic sprays or Testor's Butyrate Dope (airplane dope) were sprayed in suitable colors, usually blue, white or green. The trick was in the drying which could be done best with heat.

One of the most effective finishes was a fluorescent spray in orange or yellow to which metallic glitter was smeared. This finish have improved visibility in poor

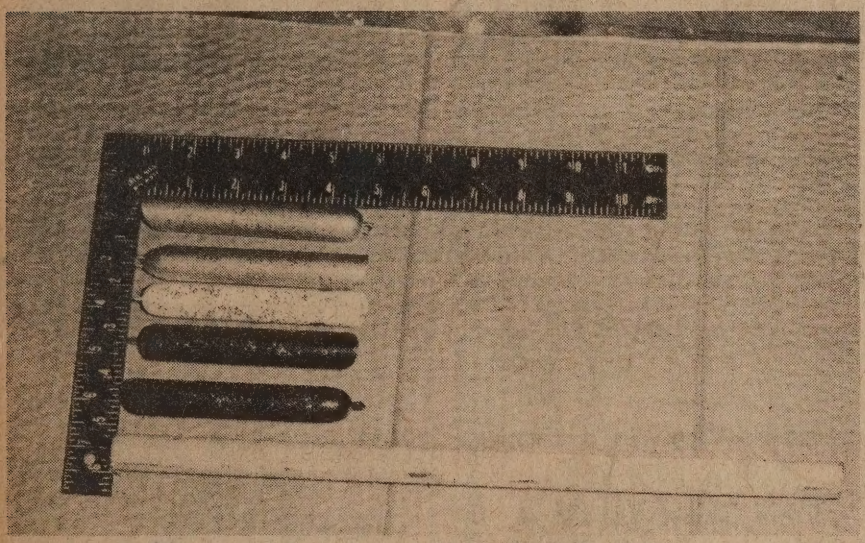


The first cut is made at a 45 degree angle on a length of ¾ in. birch dowel.



After a half-inch hole was drilled it was shaped with a round, rotary rasp in the upright blank.

A power table sander was used to round the tail end. A disc sander mounted on a power drill would serve as well.



The poppers shown here are finished, awaiting the hooks. We used just tail hooks on these.

The materials needed are displayed here along with finished poppers.

light. The technique required the painted and dried lure to be sprayed with clear plastic for toughening and adhesion. It was then rolled in metallic glitter which stuck to it. The glitter was used on all plugs and consisted of minute chips of silver, gold and other colors common at Christmas which may be purchased in hobby or gift shops.

When the paint and plastic finishes had dried and the glitter adhered successfully, screw eyes were attached. These were ¾'', steel, zinc-plated, size 214 screw eyes, a common hardware item. Three were needed on each lure, one in the front for the line or leader, another at the bottom about 1¼'' from the nose and a third in the rear end for the tail hooks. They were installed carefully in pre-drilled holes and screwed in to the hilt.

When all seemed satisfactory, size 1/0 or 2/0 galvanized, treble hooks were attached to the eyes. These came with an open eye which was pinched closed. The hooks were a special item, purchased from fishing tackle dealers and suppliers.

The tail hook functioned best with a bucktail which may be purchased ready-made or tied with white, deer tail as one would tie a fly.

The handy man with a home made shop can make popping lures and save a buck if he wants to try it. Have fun!

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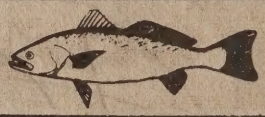

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'76 AT MONTAUK
(Continued from page 13.)

accounted for. Yet, as stated in the beginning of this report, those lucky anglers who picked the right days had good and often exceptional fishing. Why was the fall run at Montauk a poor one? The biggest factor was the weather. Early cold temperatures and strong winds might have moved the fish along their migratory path much sooner than expected.

What to expect next year. God only knows. We will have bass! In what amounts I don't know. High predictions would be foolish. As bad as the season was along the coast, Montauk was still better than most. (Even boats from New London, Conn. fished Montauk waters more than usual.) A general trend of poor fishing can be expected especially amongst the species that propagate in offshore areas and are subject to international fishing pressures until the restrictions imposed by our 200-mile limit begin to show their effect. Inshore, spawning species such as striped bass may be hurt by pollution. Everything in the area is under pressure from over-fishing. It will get worse before it gets any better. Thank the Lord for returns of fluke and seabass in such large quantity as to amaze the old timers. If they can return in force so can everything else. A perfect example is the weakfish, back from almost total extinction. Also the menhaden, not a sportfish, but of major commercial importance. This was the best harvest in 20 years for fisheries that almost went out of business. So why not the striped bass?

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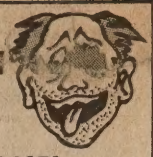

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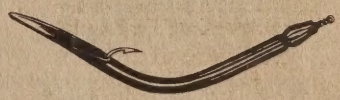

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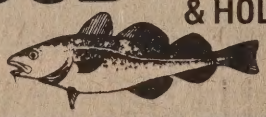

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SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

MONTAUK

Captain Richard Rade of the new open boat **Marlin IV** reported that the codfishing was excellent this weekend. A tremendous quantity of small cod has moved into the Block Island area and although they are only in the 4 lb. class they are providing plenty of action for anglers and are more than filling their bags. On Saturday more than 100 cod were boated and on Sunday only 24 anglers accounted for over 250 fish. The pool cod has been in the 15 lb. class, and there are a few small pollack mixed in with the catches. Richie said that the fish are spitting up a lot of sand eels and herring, so it looks like both the cod and baitfish are on the move and all signs point to a good spring run of fish.

Captain Jimmy Behan of the **Peconic Queen III** also reported a bonanza of codfish in the 4 to 5 lb. class. The total catch for Friday and Saturday was an unbelievable, remarkable, etc. 1649 cod! Many anglers had as many as 30 to 35 cod each, with all kinds of double headers coming aboard. Added to the bags are small pollack in the 5-6 lb. range and big bulldog blackfish in the 10 lb. class. Sunday was slower but fishing was still very good. Jimmy said that on Friday they fished the Submarine Wreck and then hit the Appletree Grounds, both off of Block Island, on Saturday and Sunday. There are a lot of ice floes on the water but now there is no problem of getting in and out of the inlet. To show how unusual this winter really was, Jimmy said that this weekend he passed an ice berg north of the Lighthouse that had two seals on it chomping away at some fish they had caught.

CAPTREE

Captain George Tweedy of the **Captain Scotty** said that he is still sailing whenever some people show up but admitted that the rod and reel fishing has been tough. But the recent mild weather should hopefully see the cod on the move again and catches improve.

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FREEPORT

Captain Al Lindroth of the **Captain Al** reported that the boat turned back on Sunday due to the bad weather, but Saturday's fishing was fair with about 20 cod caught by 18 anglers. A good sign for the future fishing is that Captain Al put out a set line during the week for cod and scored with 52 cod ranging from 13 to 52 pounds. So it appears to be plenty of cod in the area and hopefully they will start taking the hook and line better soon. Al noted that there seems to be a lot more fish on the wrecks now than on the open bottom. Best area has been southeast of Jones Inlet in 110 to 120 feet of water.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

The Captain of the **New Eagle** reported that fishing can only be described as very poor in all areas—the BA buoy, the Farms, and 17 Fathoms are not producing much of anything except for bergalls, which maybe a sign that the water temperature is warming and the fish will start biting again.

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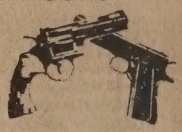

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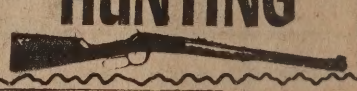

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HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR.	11:56	—	12:32	12:51	12:28	12:44	1:27	1:49	2:46	3:07	3:10	3:37	12:00	—	2/24
FRI.	12:18	12:44	1:20	1:43	1:10	1:29	2:20	2:47	3:31	3:57	4:02	4:32	12:29	12:53	2/25
SAT.	1:05	1:36	2:16	2:42	1:57	2:22	3:15	3:48	4:22	4:53	4:58	5:30	1:25	1:51	2/26
SUN.	2:01	2:37	3:16	3:44	2:51	3:27	4:11	4:45	5:20	6:02	5:55	6:30	2:24	2:51	2/27
MON.	3:03	3:45	4:16	4:40	3:54	4:30	5:03	5:37	6:25	7:36	6:53	7:26	3:20	3:46	2/28
TUE.	4:06	4:43	5:11	5:31	4:55	5:29	5:52	6:25	7:39	8:35	7:48	8:18	4:15	4:39	3/1
WED.	5:03	5:36	6:00	6:20	5:47	6:15	6:38	7:07	8:35	9:12	8:39	9:04	5:04	5:27	3/2
THUR.	5:52	6:21	6:44	7:01	6:33	7:00	7:23	7:50	9:19	9:49	9:25	9:48	5:50	6:12	3/3

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide , add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	— 0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	— 0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	— 0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	— 0 12
Seaside Park	— 0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	— 0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	— 0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	— 0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	— 0 02
Rehoboth Beach	— 0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	— 0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	— 0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	— 0 38
Democrat Point	— 0 38
Coast Guard Station	— 0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	— 0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	— 0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	— 0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	— 0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	— 0 08
Herod Point	— 0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	— 0 20
Truman Beach	— 0 42
Falkner Island	— 0 13
Sachem Head	— 0 10
Branford Harbor	— 0 07
New Haven Harbor	— 0 08
Milford Harbor	— 0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	— 0 03
Saugatuck River	— 0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	— 0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	— 0 14
Montauk Inlet	— 0 25
Montauk Point	— 1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	— 0 33
Noank, Mystic River	— 0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	— 0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	— 0 10
Execution Light	— 0 06
Manhasset Bay	— 0 01
Hempstead Harbor	— 0 11
City Island	— 0 03
Rye Beach	— 0 28
Port Chester	— 0 09
Mamaroneck	— 0 08
New Rochelle	— 0 24
Davids Island	— 0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	— 0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	— 0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

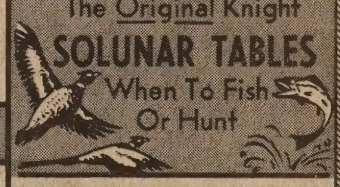
Sakonnet	— 0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	— 0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	— 0 08
Point Judith Harbor	— 0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	— 0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

2/5	7:09	5:20
2/10	7:03	5:26
2/15	6:56	5:33
2/20	6:49	5:39
2/25	6:42	5:45

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
2/18	2/26	2/4	2/11



The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
THURS.	9:15	**3:25**	9:35	**3:50**
FRI.	10:05	**4:15**	10:25	**4:40**
SAT.	10:55	**5:05**	11:15	**5:30**
SUN.	11:45	**5:50**	11:55	**6:15**
MON.	—	**6:35**	12:30	**7:00**
TUES.	12:45	**7:20**	1:15	**7:45**
WED.	1:30	**8:00**	2:00	**8:30**
THURS.	2:10	**8:50**	2:45	**9:15**

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